241 not common and only wealthy families can afford to keep a
233 herd of cattle or sheep. The general belief that the Lolo are a nomadic tribe is erroneous.

567 Agriculture and grazing will be discussed more fully in Chapter 6, "Economic Life." Here mention will be made only of family labor connected with these occupations. In a
[356] Lolo family, all housework is done by slaves under the supervision of the black Lolo master. Every black Lolo family has several household slaves called kuo-chuang wa-tzu [lit., "stove
[592] slaves"], who are white Lolo or Han-Chinese. These slaves live in the master's house, do housework for him, and are indebted to him for all their food and clothing. They own no property, but are themselves considered a part of their master's property. He can sell them whenever he pleases. The white Lolo who are not household slaves have their own dwelling places, land, cattle, and other property. Sometimes they also have Han-Chinese as slaves to work for them. On the other hand, they have to take orders from their black Lolo masters and perform duties for them. The white Lolo are never completely freed from the slave status.

512 In a Lolo household, both master and slaves rise early
[515] in the morning. They wipe their eyes clean with their hands, but do not wash their faces. The male slaves who tend cattle and sheep lead them up the mountain to graze, while those who farm take their tools to the field to plow or weed. Farming
[241 is a joint effort of husband and wife, who often work together
462] shoulder to shoulder in the field. In sowing, plowing, or harvesting, [43] men and women both participate. The herders usually take corn cakes made the night before to eat on the mountain. The farm workers generally return to the house for breakfast at about 10 o'clock, after which they do not go out to work again. Sometimes they stay home in the morning and go
241 to the field after breakfast. The Lolo do not engage in intensive farming. Though uncultivated lands lie everywhere in Liang Shan, the Lolo are not interested in developing them for cultivation. They are satisfied with having just enough food for family consumption.

[264] They have two meals, one in the morning and the other in the evening, but no regular mealtime. The preparation of
252 food is the duty of female household slaves. Dried corn or buckwheat, doled out to them from storage by the mistress of the house, is first ground into flour on the grindstone. After the stove is lighted, the flour is poured into an iron caldron, mixed with water and boiled, and then taken out and put into a round, flat-bottomed basket. The dough is kneaded into round

361 The Lolo are accustomed to and like dwelling in groups. Rarely does one find a solitary farm in Liang-shan for the I tend to congregate wherever agricultural lands are fertile. Three to five families may make up a village, or it may consist of dozens of families. It differs from a Chinese village in three respects: first, the inhabitants of a Lolo village are either land-owners (Heh-I) or farmers, and there are no shops; second, the distance between the houses--sometimes as far apart as two or three li--is generally much greater than the distance [363] between the houses of a Chinese village; finally, the so-called roads in a Lolo village are merely beaten paths for there are no actual roads, to say nothing of streets paved with stone slabs.

356 Because of low civilization, the I care not at all for cleanliness. Neither the interior nor the exterior of the houses is ever swept; in fact, 296 brooms do not exist in the I region. Clothes are never washed although they do get wet on rainy days when the wearer happens to be walking outdoors or working in the fields, and thus they receive a cleaning without the slightest expenditure of energy on the part of their owner. 515 Whether men or women, the Lolo find it quite unnecessary to bathe or to wash their faces. /108/ No doubt, living amidst extreme hardships, they cannot be concerned with such matters. At the end of two weeks in the I region, we also began to lose the habit of washing our faces. It is not quite correct to say that the I do not like to bathe for they would undress and wash themselves whenever they have to wade or swim across a river deep enough for such purposes. For the women, however, these opportunities are limited, and this fact accounts for their disagreeable odor. Even when they are heavily made up, most of the Chinese cannot help retreating from them. Actually many of the Heh-I men and women are rather good-looking and have attractive features; the men are particularly strong and stalwart. If they could be well educated and taught to observe cleanliness, their bearing would not be inferior to the Chinese.

302 All the Lolo men have a square strip of hair on the front part of the head above the right forehead. It is about three or four inches in length, sometimes even long enough to be braided, known as t'ien p'u-sa /lit., heavenly buddha/, this strip of hair must be neither cut nor shaved; regarded as the most dignified part of the body, it is not to be touched heedlessly by others. A great insult it would be for someone to touch it even by mistake, and the anger aroused might be a matter of life and death. These are customs of which one should always inform oneself before entering the region so as to avoid difficulties.

[177 cont.]

291 the top of the head by means of a wooden comb, and bound in a white headband. Covering the whole is a small turban, whose ends, [302] embroidered and decorated with beads, hang down in back of the head and reach to the shoulders. No portion of the head is shaved.

"Lolo" men and women wear wrapped leggings of linen. However, they very often go about with bare legs and feet.

301 The various feminine jewelry, rings, bracelets, necklaces, are of silver and of a style very close to that of the "Méo" jewelry.

342 The "Lolo" cabins are of two principal models. In the wealthy 231 villages, established near fertile fields, the cabins are built on piles, like those of the "Thai." The animals are confined underneath the house.

In the poor hamlets, the cabin rests directly upon the ground and is made of a straw roof and of walls of maize stalks. The domestic animals then are kept in a shed near the cabin.

● [354] In any case, the dwelling consists of only a single room, generally clean and well cared for. There are no partitions forming interior compartments.

352 The furniture is always of the simplest: a cot bed the length of the long side walls, chests, tables and benches. The crops are [251] stored almost everywhere.

354 The kitchen always contains two hearths, one of which is specially set apart for the preparation of the food of the unmarried girls, for the reason which will be indicated later.

415 [178] The kitchen utensils, pans in the shape of spherical skull-caps, trays, bowls, cups, and so on, are in no way unique and are similar to the models already described.

262 According to the type of farming, irrigated rice fields or mountainous slopes, the "Lolo" eats either rice, or maize and mountain rice. Besides, he consumes a great quantity of vegetables, peas, beans, cucumbers, eggplants, and so on. Meat is reserved for festi- [273] val days. Alcohol made from rice or maize is often drunk immoderately.

[681] From the time they have reached puberty, the young girls must not eat meat and may not use utensils in which greasy foods have been cooked, under pain of falling ill immediately.

[182 cont.]

342 level, in such a way that the under part of the cabins can be used
231 only for sheltering fowl, goats, and pigs. (The tall domestic animals must be kept outside the dwellings, in the stables of the model already described.)

2. Rectangular cabins of pisé built level with the ground and
342 covered with a straw roof in two sections. This model is found espe-
[177] cially in the "F'ou-la" hamlets in contact with the "Méo." They always have on one of the long sides of the house, a kind of rather large terrace, covered by a prolongation of the roof. The interior frequently has a corridor running the length of this same long side, upon which open the various rooms of the house. The interior partitions, as well as the material closing the space between the top of the walls and the upper angle of the roof, are of crushed bamboo.
● [356] The inside of the cabins is rather well cared for.

(Photo 335, Plate 44, shows a "F'ou-la" village of the region of [183] Muongkhuong, built in a "Méo" zone.) The structures have much similarity to "Méo" cabins, but the surroundings of the cabins are infinitely cleaner than in the hamlets of the latter group.

The costume and the headdress of the "F'ou-la" men much
291 resemble those of the "Lolo" described above. The jacket is short
177 and the bottom of the pantaloon is embroidered over a rather large width. But, in addition to the uniform of the tribe, the "F'ou-la" men wear indiscriminately the "Thai" or "Méo" costume or even the Chinese.

291 The feminine dress of the tribe includes the following articles:

1. A jacket of a rather short type, but still slightly longer than that of the "Lolo" women, leaving bare no part of the waist. This jacket usually is of very dark-blue material, almost black. It is buttoned in front of the neck and on the right side. It is edged on the front by a light-blue band more or less wide, followed by a white or light-blue piping. Some "F'ou-la" women wear jackets of very light blue, in this case the border and the piping are of red. (See the woman at the right in photo 514, Plate 44.) The jacket has a narrow collar (one or two centimeters) decorated with embroidery, the wide sleeves reaching down to the middle of the forearm and ending in two or three circular bands, white, red, or blue, reaching about up to the height of the elbow.